(b) A broad-based Committee comprising academicians, officials and members of the film industry was constituted to look into the matter regarding exemption from the process of certification of films entered into the various film festivals. The Committee's report was accepted by the Government and it was decided that all films entered into various film festivals, including foreign and Indian films, would be considered for exemption from the process of certification under Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 provided they are confined to delegates and the festival is non-commercial in nature. This Ministry's Office Memorandum dated 17th January, 2006 is available on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

(c) The foreign films being entered into the various film festivals in this country would not have to wait for being certified before entry into the festivals.

Telecast of DD-1 and DD-2 programmes by cable operators

2193. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a mandate to all cable operators to telecast DD-1 and DD-2 without interruption;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the cable operators across the country are not following the mandate of Government which causes inconvenience to the public;

(c) whether Government nave issued any direction or order to strictly adhere to Government's direction; and

(d) what steps Government have initiated to strictly monitor the cable operators to telecast the DD-1 and DD-2 channels with clarity?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Under the provisions of Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) has notified Doordarshan channels DD-1 and DD-2 and one regional language channel of the State for mandatory re-transmission by every cable operator in his cable services

in the prime band, in Satellite mode on frequencies other than those carrying terrestrial frequencies.

(b) to (d) The Sub-Divisional Magistrates, District Magistrates, Commissioner of Police and other officers notified by the Central Government and State Government have the responsibility to ensure compliance to the provisions of the aforesaid Act. All State Governments/ UT administrations have been requested to issue necessary instructions to the concerned authorized officers to ensure that all the cable operators within their jurisdiction carry the above mentioned Doordarshan channels in their service, failing which action should be taken against them as per provisions of the aforesaid Act.

Functioning of DD stations in Punjab

2194. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan studios presently functioning in Punjab;

(b) whether any new Doordarshan Studio is being planned in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Two Doordarshan Studios, at Jalandhar and Patiala, are presently functioning in Punjab. Due to resource and manpower contraints, there is no scheme to set up any other Doordarshan Studios in the State.

Staff of DD/AIR

2195. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff for the newly opened DD and AIR are sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, whether Government have started to fill up the vacancies; and